

Message

From: Goodis, Michael [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=50ED0B92DC4945B7A808FE8DBC9224F0-MICHAEL GOODIS]
Sent: 8/26/2021 7:52:44 PM
To: Nesci, Kimberly [Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Follow-up: RE: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

Got it – thanks

Michael L. Goodis, P.E.
Acting Deputy Director for Programs
Office of Pesticide Programs
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C.
571-309-5497 (cell)

From: Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 2:22 PM
To: Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Follow-up: RE: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

FYI

From: Hamernik, Karen <Hamernik.Karen@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>
Cc: Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-up: RE: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

Hi Jay,

- I spoke with Kimberly Nesci today regarding follow-up on C/CS aspects of the PFAS Contamination issue that you were interested in back in Jan 2021.

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| Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) |
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 Kimberly is Director of EPA's Pesticide Program's Biological and Economic Analysis Division (EPA/OCSP/OPP/BEAD).
- In brief, as I understand it, the NGO PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) sent the agency a report alleging that their testing had found PFAS in certain pesticide containers containing a pesticide product. They did not send the actual raw data (apparently PEER paid a contractor to do the testing). EPA has analytical labs in Fort Meade, MD and EPA did their own testing of this and at least one other product using more precise equipment and a number of testing scenarios. Although there were some differences in the levels of PFAS found, and the agency has not at this point made any broad policy changes, this could be an example of how CS data raised awareness of the potential for this type of situation to happen. PEER's report resulted in the agency looking more closely at the issue and the company manufacturing the originally identified product changed their packaging, as a result. In addition, EPA provided messaging to the regulated community and stakeholders that PFAS contaminants should not be in these pesticide products. The agency may be doing further testing associated with this issue.
- Kimberly is willing to discuss this with you further. If this could, in your opinion, be a candidate to move forward as a C/CS case study, Kimberly suggests that the branch chief from our Fort Meade labs, who coordinated the analysis studies, be included at some point in discussions.

- Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. I provided Kimberly a copy of the draft (July 13, 2021) C/CS Science Case Study Discussion Guide, for her information and briefly made her aware of C/CS Workgroup and Data Management Subgroup activities (including the Nov Workshop).

Thanks,
Karen

Here is Kimberly's contact information:

Kimberly Nesci, Director
Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD)
Office of Pesticide Programs
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

703-308-8059 (work -I think)

From: Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 8:30 AM

To: Hamernik, Karen <Hamernik.Karen@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Follow-up: RE: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

Hi Karen – I didn't get any additional info about the citizen science aspect of the project. I would be very interested to learn more. Jay

From: Hamernik, Karen <Hamernik.Karen@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:23 PM

To: Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>

Subject: Follow-up: RE: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

Jay, did you make any head way on figuring out the CS component of this from back in Jan 2021? Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Are there any specific questions I should ask to try to ascertain if it might be case-study material or have you determined that it won't fit nicely in a case study framework?

I was sent these two links in prelude to the conversation but I don't see that they really shed much light on the CS aspect anymore than from the link you cited back in Jan.

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging>

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-investigate-pfas-contamination>

Thanks,
Karen

From: Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:49 PM

To: Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>

Cc: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Hamernik, Karen <Hamernik.Karen@epa.gov>; Siedschlag, Gregory

<Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

Understood. Let us know if you have any more questions – happy to help.

Michael L. Goodis, P.E.
Acting Deputy Director for Programs
Office of Pesticide Programs
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
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Washington, D.C.
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From: Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:48 PM

To: Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>

Cc: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Hamernik, Karen <Hamernik.Karen@epa.gov>; Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

Thanks Mike! This is not urgent. I just wanted to better understand any citizen science aspects of the project. I am the EPA coordinator for citizen science. Hhave a good weekend. Appreciate your help. Jay

From: Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:43 PM

To: Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>

Cc: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Hamernik, Karen <Hamernik.Karen@epa.gov>; Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

Hi Jay

Karen forwarded your request to me so I hope to provide some answers. Linked to the press release are some Q/As including the following which may help answer some questions. Also below is a link to a Boston Globe article which brought this issue to attention (cannot access the actual BG article). Looping in the communications team if they have more information. Hope this is helpful. Mike

<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2020/12/01/toxic-forever-chemicals-found-in-pesticide-used-on-millions-of-mass-acres-when-spraying-for-mosquitos>

6. When did EPA first learn of this contamination? What steps have been taken since initial PFAS discovery in the pesticide product?

On September 1, 2020, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) contacted the Massachusetts Reclamation Board, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' (MDAR) Division of Pest Services, and other state agencies claiming that there were unspecified PFAS in a pesticide used for mosquito control. EPA Region 1 was notified that same day.

Since being notified, EPA has worked diligently in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to request samples of the pesticide product and analyze the identified product at different steps of production and manufacturing to determine whether PFAS are present, including issuing an information request to

the pesticide registrant on October 5, 2020 seeking information on the affected pesticide's production, sales and distribution.

In late December 2020, rinsates of used and unused fluorinated HDPE containers used to store and transport the pesticide product yielded results supporting that the source of contamination is associated with the fluorinated HDPE containers. EPA has been in close contact with MDAR, the pesticide registrant and the fluorinated HDPE container treatment company to discuss the issue, as well as to obtain the materials needed to test for PFAS in the product and the fluorinated HDPE containers. EPA is asking pesticide companies and entities that fluorinate containers to engage in good product stewardship to examine their distribution chains to uncover potential areas for contamination.

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From: Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Hamernik, Karen <Hamernik.Karen@epa.gov>
Subject: quick question about a recent EPA press release that mentions citizen science and PFAS

Hi Karen – I'd like to learn more about the EPA example of using citizen science in the pesticides program – see the highlighted language below. Do you know who I might contact at EPA (probably the Pesticide program) to learn about the citizen science component? Jay

EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

WASHINGTON (January 14, 2021) — As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) extensive efforts to address PFAS, today the agency is making new information available about EPA testing that shows PFAS contamination from fluorinated containers.

Through a coordinated effort with both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a pesticide manufacturer, the agency has determined that fluorinated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers that are used to store and transport a mosquito control pesticide product contain PFAS compounds that are leaching into the pesticide product.

While the agency is early in its investigation and assessment of potential impacts on health or the environment, the affected pesticide manufacturer has voluntarily stopped shipment of any products in fluorinated HDPE containers and is conducting its own testing to confirm EPA results and product stability in un-fluorinated containers. In addition, EPA has issued a request for information under the Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA) to the company that fluorinates the containers used by certain pesticide manufacturers. The TSCA subpoena requests information about the fluorination process used to treat the containers.

As EPA evaluates this issue, the agency asks that pesticide and other companies using fluorinated containers, and entities that provide container fluorination services, engage in good product

stewardship and examine their distribution chains to identify potential sources of contamination. EPA will also continue to work closely with the entities involved and their supply and distribution chains, mosquito control districts, the pesticide and packaging industry, federal partners, states, and tribes that may be affected to provide information and guidance on next steps. EPA understands the need to provide guidance to states, tribes, and other users as they prepare to purchase mosquito control products for 2021 and will provide more information as it continues its investigation.

EPA will update the following webpage with information as it becomes available: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging>

Background

Since first becoming aware of the PFAS contamination issue in early September 2020 through citizen science testing of a pesticide product for mosquito control, EPA has been working to investigate the source of the contamination. Throughout October and November 2020, EPA has worked diligently in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to request samples of the pesticide product and analyze the identified product at different steps of production and manufacturing to determine whether PFAS are present, including issuing an information request to the pesticide registrant on October 5, 2020 seeking information on the affected pesticide's production, sales, and distribution.

In late December 2020, EPA studied the fluorinated HDPE containers used to store and transport the product and determined the containers are a possible source of PFAS contamination. EPA has been in close contact with Massachusetts, the pesticide registrant and the fluorinated HDPE container treatment company to discuss the issue, as well as to obtain the materials needed to test for PFAS in the product and the fluorinated HDPE containers.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA is charged with approving active and inert ingredients in the registered pesticide products sold in the United States. EPA has confirmed that PFAS is not a known ingredient or additive in the company's affected product and is collaboratively working with the registrant as EPA laboratories test samples of the product at different steps of production and manufacturing, in addition to the agency's study of the containers themselves.

If you would rather not receive future communications from US EPA, Office of Public Engagement, let us know by clicking [here](#).
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